

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to Dr T. N. Ananthkrishnan, Director, and Shri U. A. Gajbe, Officer-in-Charge, Arachnida Section, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for necessary facilities and

greatly indebted to Dr B. K. Tikader, Deputy Director, Western Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Poona, for the confirmation of the identification and valuable suggestions.

REFERENCES

SIMON, E. (1892): Histoire Naturelle des Araignes, Paris, 1:1017.

TIKADER, B. K. (1970): Spider fauna of Sikkim. *Rec. Zool. Surv.*, 64(1-4):1-84.

————— (1971): Revision of Indian Crabspiders (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Mem. Zool. Surv.*, 15(3):1-90.

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF BAY OWL [*PHODILUS BADIUS*
(HORSFIELD)] FROM PENINSULAR INDIA

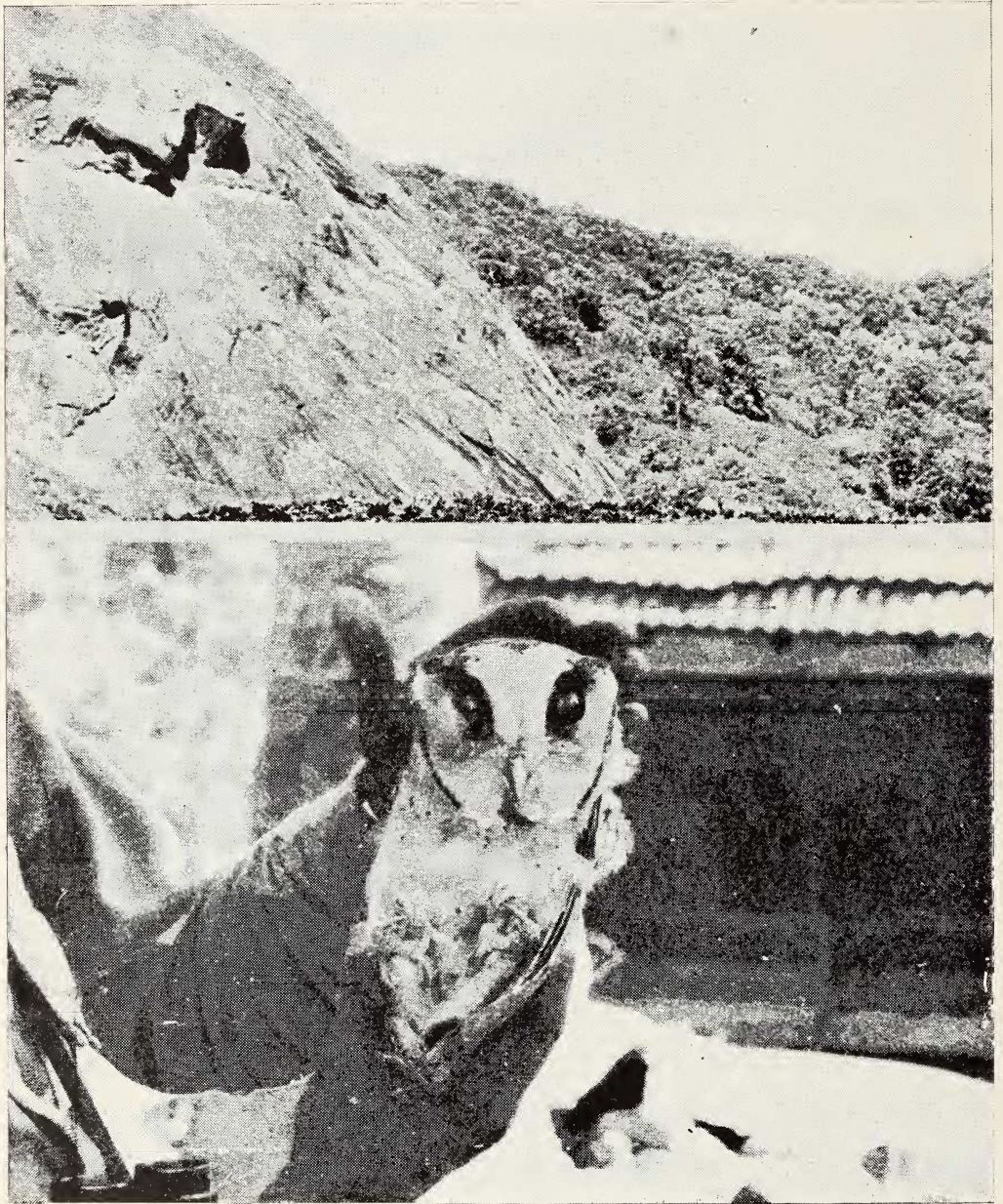
S. A. HUSSAIN AND M. A. REZA KHAN¹
(With a plate)

Two races of Bay owl (*Phodilus badius*) occur in the Indian sub-continent. The Sikkim Bay Owl (*P. b. saturatus*) ranges in the northeastern Himalayas from Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and then on to Burma and Malaya, intergrading with the nominate race. The second race, Ceylon Bay Owl (*P. b. assimilis*) is confined to Sri Lanka. Both subspecies are considered to be rare in their respective habitats and so far as the available literature is concerned (Hume 1873, 1875, 1876, 1877; Fairbank 1877; White 1877; Ferguson & Bourdillon 1903-04; Kinloch 1920-1923; Baker 1929; Ali 1935-37; Ripley 1961; Ali & Ripley 1969 and Henry 1971) this owl has not been recorded from peninsular India.

Recently one of us (M.A.R.K.) along with Dr V. S. Vijayan (presently Head of the Wildlife Division, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Trichur, Kerala), while on a survey of the Parambikulam sanctuary environs in the Western Ghats, obtained a specimen of a Bay Owl which, apart from being a new record for the region, appears to be distinct from the Himalayan and Sri Lanka birds. The specimen was sent to Dr S. Dillon Ripley at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.A., who very kindly compared it with specimens of *saturatus* and *assimilis* obtained by him from the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and the British Museum, London, and has confirmed our diagnosis. Considering the morphological differences and the ecological isolation of this bird from the other races, we hereby name it as

¹ Present address: Lecturer in Zoology, University of Dacca, Dacca, Bangla Desh.





Above: Forests of Nelliampathy, habitat of the owl. Below: Southern Bay Owl,
Phodilus badius ripleyi subsp. nov.
(Photos: Reza Khan)